Complaints against custom officers

1965. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain complaints from the Environment Ministry against the customs officials have been received alleging their involvement in the illegal trade in the endangered flora and fauna including the illegal transportation of large segments of Finances and Munias;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry made by the Government; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government against those identified in the illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have referred to this Ministry only one case involving release of 'Shahtoosh' by customs officials at the Delhi Airport. It has been pointed out that trade in 'Shahtoosh' is banned under the Convention on international Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora' and the circumstances under which the above release was made would need to be looked into.

(c) and (d) Investigation in the above case is in progress. Notices have been issued to the importers, who are of Nepali origin. The importers are, however, not traceable.

National Housing Bank without Chairman

1966. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Housing Bank (NHB) is working without full time Chairman since more than last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the reasons for the major lapses for bank's gradually declining business as compared to earlier years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been initiated for filling up the vacancy of Chairman and Managing Director, National Housing Bank.

(c) National Housing Bank has reported that the decline in the business of the bank was mainly on account of paucity of resources. In view of changes in the interest rates structure, the cost of funds had also increased. Further, with housing finance companies having able to mobilise substantial resources on their own they are depending less on the National Housing Bank for funds.

ढाका में हुई "दक्षेस" की बैठक

1967. **श्री अन्नतराम जायसवाल :**
श्री दिग्विजय सिंह :
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जुलाई, 1994 के पहले सप्ताह में ढाका में "दक्षेस" देशों के वित्त मंत्रियों की एक बैठक हुई थी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बैठक में किन-किन मुद्दों पर विचार किया गया और उन पर क्या निर्णय लिए गए क्या ?